waterway. As a promotional measure, Central Inland Water Transport Corporation have recently started a mechanised monthly cargo service between Calcutta and Patna.

[*English*]

Trade promotion in North-Eastern

1495.SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have recently taken some stps to promote trade in the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a perspective plan paper has been drafted to give fillip to the economy; and

(d) if so, the details of the plan and the transit routes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Trade Development Authority had prepared an Action Plan for Promotion of Exports from North-Eastern Region. The Plan identified potential products of the region, institutional infrastructure for export production and export marketing and suggested product specific time-bound export strategy for boosting exports from the North Eastern States.

(d) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

The products/Nodal organisations identified for export thrust from the North-Eastern region

I PRODUCTS

a. Cotton Handloom - Laishingphee, Tribal fabrics

b. Silk Goods - Dress material, Furnishing fabrics, Scarves & Stoles, Sarees, Ties, Ladies Gowns & Nighties

c. Handicrafts (cane & Bamboo) - Planters/Baskets, Furniture, Tableware, Decoration cum Utility Items

d. Processed Fruits - Pineapple products.

II. ORGANISATIONS

1. NODAL ORGANISATIONS

a. North-Eastern Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation (NEHHDC)

b. North-Eastern Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC)

III OTHER ORGANISATIONS

a. State Development Corporations

b. Other major Manufacturing Organisations

Export of Mica and Mica Scrap

1496. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation and Mica Trading Corporation of India Ltd. are the two main collaborating agencies which export mica and mica scrap;

(b) if so, the role player by these two public sector companies to promote export of mica and mica scrap during the last three years; and

(c) the names of the countries importing mica and mica scrap from India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) While export of mica waste (Including factory cuttings) and scrap is presently canalised through Mica Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MITOO)/Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MMTC), export of mica in all other forms is decanalised for export.

(b) Apart from establishing direct contact with major buyers and participation in internationai trade fairs to promote export of mica, mica scrap and mica products, MITOO, with financial assistance from MMTC, the holding company, has taken up a number of downstream projects for manufacture and export of value added mica products.

(c) Countries importing mica and mica scrap from India are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Czechoslovakia, DPRK, Egypt, France, GDR, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherland, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, UK., U.S.A., USSR, West Germany and Yugoslavia.

Export of Rice

1497. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries to which rice is exported at present;

(b) whether the government have explored the possibilities of increasing the export of rice to some other countries;

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) the plan drawn up for 1991-92 and 1992-93 for the export of rice?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The major destinations for export of Indian rice have been the following:-

Saudi Arabia, UAE, UK, Kuwait, Bahrain, USSR, Jordan.

(b) and (c). After the recent adjustments in the exchange rate of the Indian rupee with major currencies of the world and the introduction of the Exim Scrip Scheme, Indian non-basmati rice has become quite competitive in the international market. Therefore, during the current year it has been sold to a number of new markets which include the Latin American countries of Brazil and Mexico; African countries such as Togo, Sierra Leone, Haiti, Angola; Jordan in the Middle East and Malaysia in the Far East.

(d) During the year 1991-92, a ceiling of 7 lakh tonnes of non-basmati rice was released for export. Further allocation depends on the availability of surplus rice for export. However, there is no ceiling on exports of Basmati rice.

Monitoring and Reporting of Export Obligations

1498. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign collaborations are granted with export obligation;

(b) if so, the procedure for reporting and monitoring the export obligations;

(c) the companies which have given export commitment during the last years the amount of exports committed and the exports achieved; and